

PROGRAM TEACHING PLAN—Denise Rohdin

Program Title: Expressions in Clay

Discipline: Ceramics

Program Summary:

Participants will gain proficiency in hand building skills, completing three to fifteen (or more if time allows and depending on individual entry skill levels) intricate vessels. Learning techniques and solving visual problems with mutual support will enhance the development of each students work. Using specific hand construction processes including pinch, coil and slab, we will successfully create physical evidence with finished ceramic vessels. The resulting works will be admired at a public exhibition of accumulated work.

Week 1:

Class Objective:

Participants will share personal stories of working with their hands, with mud, with clay.

Learn vocabulary specific to working w/clay.

Learn and recognize ceramic equipment & protocol.

Health & safety concerns will be emphasized.

Sequential Activities:

Studio Introduction of:

1.Game

2.studio

3.cleanup of equipment

4.tools

5.clay dust

6.glazing supplies (including safely mask)

7.At Colby: We will note, observe and learn arrangement of ceramic vessels

8.We will utilize studio books, magazines & current student work to determine what will be focus of concentration (functional or sculptural).

(reading material will be available for the entire teaching session)

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

Group game: Passing a ball back & forth~ "I remember working w/ my hands when..."

Trip to Colby College Art Museum including sketching inspirational notes. Observe & discuss design, texture & aesthetics of art & how it relates to the creative development of their own clay objects.

Participants will plan out next weeks project.

Week 2:

Class Objective:

Learn hand-building technique by creating a waterproof vessel(s) focusing on the pinch pot method

Learn consciousness of design in three-dimensional art.

Learn & build vocabulary specific to clay: plastic, green ware, leather-hard, bone dry, etc.

Health and safety concerns will be stressed.

Sequential Activities:

Participants will create a waterproof 2-5lb. vessel(s) using pinch hand-building techniques:

- 1.Group game/Demo's
- 2.Form a ball with clay
- 3.Press center w/ thumb to make indent
- 4.Thin & shape walls upward
- 5.Rotate and press
- 6.After forming chosen shape, add texture, embellishments and/or carving
- 7.Add feet, handles, lip, or lid if applicable
- 8.Determine suitable base & ventilation for drying

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

Group recall: Game of ceramic tool names.

Group will watch demos:

Wedging clay (prevent air pockets).

Techniques for pinch pot vessel & texturing clay objects.

Demo drying methods.

We will explore various tools to assist with method.

We will clean up tools and workspace.

Plan next weeks coil vessel(s).

Week 3:

Class Objective:

Learn to how evaluate drying pieces.

Learn hand-building techniques focusing on coiling method creating vessel(s) of own choice.

Continue to develop consciousness of design in three-dimensional arts while practicing skills.

Health and safety concerns will be stressed.

Sequential Activities:

Participants will:

1. Check last weeks pinch pot(s) evaluating drying progress making adjustments.
2. Create a hollow object using coil hand-building techniques.
3. Using 5-10lbs of clay students will:
4. Roll round slab for base with clay roller
5. Roll out coils by two-hand method
6. Attach coils using scratch and score method
7. Smooth out coils with paddle or rib (one side)
8. Add embellishments

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

We will discuss design aesthetics such as symmetric vs. asymmetric.

While completing individual vessels we will continually communicate how we visualize our projects and collectively brainstorm as problems arise.

We will clean up workspace and tools.

Students will read materials and plan for next week sculpture project.

Week 4:**Class Objective:**

Learn how to evaluate drying pieces and proceed depending on evaluation.

Learn hand-building techniques focusing on slab method by creating a sculpture (determined individually).

Learn how to load kiln w/green ware~ emphasis on delicate nature of green ware.

Learn cone05 kiln settings.

Health and Safety Concerns discussed.

Sequential Activities:

Participants will:

1. Check/load pinch & coil projects carefully/Watch demo of kiln

settings

2.Using 10-20lb of clay students will cut slabs using cutting wire

3.Roll out the 'grain' of clay slabs in different directions with rollers

4.Use coil method learned week before along with slip & score to attach slabs

5.Sculpture minimum requirement 8" by 8"

6.Add carving, textures, etc.

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

We load kiln together.

We work as a group solving problems as they come up individually.

We reflect on each other's pieces and note the differences by sharing and discussing how completed designs are advancing.

We will clean up workspace and tools.

Plan for next weeks final hand building session and complete any unfinished work.

Week 5:

Class Objective:

Continue learning how to evaluate drying pieces.

Learn from results of fired bisque ware.

This class will be used to complete unfinished pieces and to remake any piece that had drying/firing issues.

Sequential Activities:

Participants will:

- 1.Evaluate drying pieces
- 2.Evaluate fired pieces
- 3.Finish any incomplete work
- 4.Remake exploded/broken pieces
- 5.If all work is complete participants can choose to add to existing project or may opt to make four decorated tiles using previously learned skills

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

We discuss how using appropriate tools for hand-building techniques provides the confidence to develop individual abilities, finding the artist inside ourselves.

We brainstorm how to solve any problems that happened during firing.

We will clean up workspace and tools.

Week 6:

Class Objective:

Participant will learn how to glaze vessels & load glazed bisque ware.

Participants will plan final glazing based on last firing and color charts, samples & tiles.

Review of health & safety concerns.

Sequential Activities:

- 1.Watch while I demo how to load kiln including programming for

cone 6 glaze firing

2.Look over glazing charts, tiles and samples and chose glazes appropriate for pieces

3.Clean bisque ware

4.While waiting for bisque ware to dry test brushes and experiment with brush strokes

5.Glaze pieces

6.Clean up brushes and work area

7.Experiment with etching/sponging/stamping/wax resist

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

We will share ideas for glazing & load glazed bisque ware.

We will have a group discussion, recollecting our initial reactions to working with clay and its development over the last 6 weeks.

We will begin to write a brief artistic statement/summary together to share at the group showing. We will include individual reflections of thoughts on the development of pinch, coil and slab techniques.

Week 7:

Class Objective:

Participants will examine last weeks fired ceramic vessels.

Continue learning how to glaze bisque ware.

Health and safety concerns will be stressed.

Sequential Activities:

Participants will:

1. Analyze last week's Cone 6 pieces and proceed to this week's glazing, based on the results of last week
2. Glaze remaining vessels
3. Review goals & progress from start to finish
4. Reflect & discuss clay projects
5. Finalize writing

Social Engagement Activity/Activities:

We will have final group cleanup of studio workspace.

Based on prior Colby College Museum trip, we will discuss, as a group, options on how ceramic vessels will be displayed in an aesthetically pleasing way.

We will finalize group statement/writing about aspect we learned while working with clay and/or any of the particular piece(s) that evoked special meaning for us.

Week 8:

Class Objective:

Our collective group of works will be arranged (by artist or by vessels/sculptures) and installed at a public library space or in our studio space. We will include our thoughts about working in clay. The written expression will be hung at a group showing. We will invite family members, studio students, and the public to come celebrate and appreciate the completed ceramic art of our community elders. The event will be advertised through local art websites and Facebook.

REFERENCES:

Please list two references who can speak about your experience as a teaching artist: NameOrganizationAddress

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